

# Indiana House of Representatives

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## News and Information

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### **PELATH REACTS TO STATE OF THE STATE SPEECH**

INDIANAPOLIS – State Rep. Scott Pelath (D-Michigan City) today issued the following statement after Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels delivered his 2006 State of the State speech:

“I tend to see double whenever I watch one of the Governor’s speeches. This one was no exception.

“On one hand, Gov. Daniels invariably delivers his message with conviction, intelligence and a single-minded determination to tackle the work ahead. As an observer, I cannot help but to be impressed by the confidence he has in his views and abilities. To me, he remains a compelling figure, and he gave a fine speech.

“However, as much as I admire his self-assurance, I worry that the same quality tends to make him say ‘trust me’ when citizens disagree with him or demand more details.

“He still insists on selling the Indiana Toll Road in the face of deep public opposition.

“Despite the pleas of many, working-class concerns like residential property taxes and home heating costs are not among his top priorities. For the second straight year, he has asked for a tax increase.

“He remains unrepentant about the chaos he created in failing to follow through on his announced preference that Indiana go on Central Time.

“In the wake of recent cuts to our local schools, the governor’s plan to steer more money toward classroom instruction sounds good, but his intentions are light on specifics, and his definition of what constitutes ‘classroom instruction’ is wrought with mystery. We are eager to hear more.

“We have a governor who believes he knows best, and is willing to roll the dice to achieve his aims. Although Indiana lost over 7,000 jobs during his first year in office, Gov. Daniels has an unwavering belief in his course. In the year ahead, it will be important for legislators of both parties to uphold our constitution and provide needed balance to the chief executive.”

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